

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 28 and 34-42 and amend claims 23 and 29 in accordance with the following listing showing the status of all claims in the application.

1-22 (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method of sending a message to a recipient, comprising:

obtaining a new message to be transmitted to a recipient;

comparing the new message to at least one message previously transmitted to the recipient;

constructing a difference message that includes identification information identifying an earlier message previously transmitted to the recipient and difference information specifying a difference between the new message and at least a portion of the earlier message; and

transmitting the difference message to the recipient,

wherein the identification information also identifies a second message that was previously transmitted to the recipient.

24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the difference message further includes message subset information that identifies a subset of the earlier message and wherein the difference information specifies a difference between the new message and the identified subset of the earlier message.

25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the message subset information includes an identification of a data structure identified in the earlier message.

26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the difference information sets forth a modification of a data value for an argument of the data structure.

27. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the identification information includes a code that uniquely identifies the earlier message.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim ~~28~~, 23, wherein the difference information references content that was identified in the second message.

30. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 29, wherein the difference information indicates that the referenced content is to be inserted into an indicated field in the new message.

31. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the comparing step comprises comparing a data format and a corresponding argument of the new message with

at least one data format and corresponding argument in the at least one message previously transmitted to the recipient.

32. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the comparing step selects the earlier message upon determining that the new message is similar to the earlier message.

33. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the comparing step selects the earlier message upon determining that the new message has at least a portion of the same data format and some of the same data as the earlier message.

34-42 (Canceled)